

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 SS-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /080 W

-----160100Z 100831 /63

P 160026Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1586

DEAHQS WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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KUALA LUMPUR AND BANGKOK FOR MATHEA FALCO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION  
SUMMARY

REF: MEXICO 5239

1. AS GOM WINDS DOWN ITS POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT USEFUL TO NOTE GOM ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD JANUARY 1 - APRIL 10, 1977. FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES, FIGURES FOR SIMILAR PERIOD LAST YEAR (JANUARY 2 - APRIL 29, 1976) ARE GIVEN IN PARENTHESES.

(A) POPPY CROPS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDE: 25,228 (16,308)

(B) POPPY CROPS DESTROYED MANUALLY: 272 (3,138)

(C) TOTAL POPPY CROPS DESTROYED: 25,500 (19,446)

(D) MARIJUANA CROPS DESTROYED HERBICIDE: 5,124 (1,248)

(E) MARIJUANA CROPS DESTROYED MANUALLY: 177 (1,279)

(F) TOTAL MARIJUANA CROPS DESTROYED: 5,301 (2,527)

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(G) ACRES POPPY DESTROYED BY HERBICIDE: 15,278 (9,776)

(H) ACRES POPPY DESTROYED MANUALLY: 89 (2,270)

(I) TOTAL ACRES POPPY DESTROYED: 15,367 (12,046)

(J) ACRES MARIJUANA BY HERBICIDE: 3,029 (953)

(K) ACRES MARIJUANA MANUALLY: 99 (968)

(L) TOTAL ACRES MARIJUANA DESTROYED: 3,128 (1,921)

2. NOTE: SURFACE AREA GIVEN ABOVE IN ACRES REPEAT ACRES, AS THIS UNIT MORE FAMILIAR TO MOST AMERICANS THAN HECTARES. ONE HECTARE EQUALS 2.47 ACRES.

3. ON THE INTERDICTION SIDE, DURING THESE PERIODS GOM SEIZED:  
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- (A) HEROIN: 53 KILOS (90 KILOS)
- (B) OPIUM GUM: 27 KILOS (337 KILOS)
- (C) COCAINE: 147 KILOS (20 KILOS)
- (D) MARIJUANA: 131.7 TONS (156.7 TONS)

4. OVERALL, GOM THIS YEAR DESTROYED 31 PERCENT MORE POPPY IN TERMS OF INDIVIDUAL CROPS AND 28 PERCENT MORE IN TERMS OF ACRES. HERBICIDES ACCOUNTED FOR 99 PERCENT OF THE POPPY CROPS DESTROYED IN 1977 AND 84 PERCENT IN 1976.

5. MARIJUANA DESTRUCTION INCREASED 109 PERCENT IN TERMS OF CROPS AND 63 PERCENT IN TERMS OF ACRES. HERBICIDES ACCOUNTED FOR 97 PERCENT OF THE MARIJUANA CROPS DESTROYED IN 1977 AND 49 PERCENT IN 1976.

6. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE GOM HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON POPPY DESTRUCTION, AS POPPY ACREAGE ACCOUNTED FOR 83 PERCENT OF THE COMBINED POPPY AND MARIJUANA ACREAGE DESTROYED THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO THESE FIGURES, AVERAGE SIZE OF FIELD IS 0.6 ACRES FOR BOTH POPPY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARIJUANA.

7. THE 42 PERCENT REDUCTION IN HEROIN SEIZURES AND THE 92 PERCENT REDUCTION IN OPIUM GUM SEIZURES CAN BE INTERPRETED IN TWO WAYS, DEPENDING ON ONE'S BIAS. EITHER GOM ENFORCEMENT HAS BECOME WOEFULLY INEFFECTIVE OR THE ERADICATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH OPIUM OR HEROIN TO BE SEIZED. WE SUSPECT THAT THE DECLINE IS DUE TO A COMBINATION OF BOTH FACTORS, WITH GREATER WEIGHT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ERADICATION EFFORT. (WE VIEW 635 PERCENT INCREASE IS COCAINE SEIZURES AS STATISTICAL QUIRK CAUSED BY ONE LARGE CASE.)

8. WHILE WE CAN TAKE A CERTAIN SATISFACTION IN THE INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, THE TRUE MEASURE WILL BE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF OPIUM AND HEROIN IN MEXICO, AND THE PRICE AND PURITY OF MEXICAN HEROIN IN THE UNITED STATES.

DEA HERE IS WORKING ON AN ANALYSIS OF THESE FACTORS  
BASED ON INTELLIGENCE GATHERED BY OPERATION TRIZO PER-  
SONNEL AND DATA SUPPLIED BY DOMESTIC DEA REGIONS. WE  
WILL TRANSMIT THIS ANALYSIS WHEN AVAILABLE.

9. GENERAL NOTE: ALL THE ABOVE IS BASED ON DATA PRO-  
VIDED BY THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL. WE HAVE NO RPT  
NO REASON TO DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF THE DATA BUT END-  
USERS SHOULD REALIZE THAT ALL NUMBERS ARE SUBJECT TO  
INFLATION AS THEY PROCEED UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. AS-  
SUMING CONSISTENT INFLATION RATES, THE YEAR-TO-YEAR

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1587

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INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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COMPARISONS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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